



# YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## District Newsletter

### Week of September 25th

#### Upcoming Dates

**Wednesday, Sept. 27th 4-5:30pm**  
A.C.C.E. Open House

**Saturday, September 30th 6pm**  
Youth Mural Unveiling

**Wednesday, October 4th**  
Fall Count Day

**Wednesday, October 4th**  
Ford ELC Mobile Dentist

**Friday, October 6th 7pm**  
Homecoming Game

**Thursday, October 12th 5:30-7pm**  
Estabrook Hispanic Heritage Month &  
Multicultural Night Celebration

**Friday, October 20th 7pm**  
Toyota YCS & LCS Game

*Click the links below for the calendar  
and school website.*

### 2023-24 School Calendar

### District Website



#### BELL SCHEDULE FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
7:30 AM to 2:30 PM	8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	9:20 AM to 4:20 PM
YCMS	Beatty	Erickson
YCHS	Ford	Estabrook
WIMA/WIHI	Perry	Holmes
YIES		

No Transportation for  
YC2S 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
ACCE 8:00 AM to 2:55 PM

### District Leadership

**Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross**  
Superintendent

**Dr. Carlos Lopez**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Sue McCarty**  
Human Resources

**Damien Butler**  
Director of Business & Finance

#### Dear Grizzly Families,

Happy fall! 🍂 I hope you're enjoying the changing of the weather and leaves too! We're excited to share that the Institute for Education Innovation will be visiting our district on October 9th as part of their Michigan Roadshow to learn more about our innovative practices and work. They will be meeting with our leadership team and visiting schools. We are excited to share our best practices with other schools across the nation.

Also, a friendly reminder that next **Wednesday, October 4th**, is Fall Count. Your child's on-time attendance is appreciated each day, and especially on this day.

**Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross**, Superintendent of Schools

**MDE Grow Your Own (GYO):** We are pleased to announce that the Michigan Department of Education has awarded the Ypsilanti Community Schools the Grow Your Own (GYO) grant. The "Grow Your Own Teacher Program" in Michigan is aimed at increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in high-need areas by providing financial assistance and support to individuals who are interested in becoming teachers. This award will support individuals who work with and for the Ypsilanti Community Schools with obtaining their teacher certification.

**Youth Mural Unveiling:** Join us on Saturday, September 30th at 6pm for the unveiling of a collaborative youth mural project that celebrates unity between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. This remarkable project was guided by the talented artist Gary Horton and funded by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), Creative Washtenaw, and Embracing Our Differences Michigan. The young artists involved in the project brainstormed their ideas for the mural, with the goal of bringing the two cities closer through art and fostering a diverse and inclusive community. The event will take place at 121 Washington Street, next to the Ypsilanti Transit Center downtown. Esteemed artist, Gary Horton, along with the young artists, their parents, dedicated volunteers, and elected officials will be present at the event.

#### Congratulations!!!

Nerrance Conner - Erickson | Art Teacher **Heidi Roberts**  
Morgan Hayes - YC2S | Art Teacher **Jeff Trax**

**My Future Fund:** Over 1,200 YCS families have opened a My Future Fund account. Did you open your account yet? Through the My Future Fund program, eligible 1st-5th grade students will get **free money and support** to jump-start their savings for college and career training. The My Future Fund program is operated by the Washtenaw Intermediate School District in collaboration with the Washtenaw County Government. Please visit [www.myfuturefund.org](http://www.myfuturefund.org) for more information.

**Reminder:** To take full advantage of all My Future Fund benefits, a parent/guardian should complete the program's Release of Information form. This will also allow My Future Fund to check a student's existing records to see if they meet the criteria for the **additional \$475 deposit**, which is based on family income.

To access family permission forms and opt-out forms, [click here](#).

*Note:* Forms are also translated into Spanish, Arabic, French, Ukrainian, Pashto, Korean, Japanese, Dari, and Chinese.

### Department Spotlight



**YCS Resiliency Center:** The Resiliency Center is a one-stop shopping experience for the students and families of YCS. Families can schedule an appointment to shop for clothing, shoes, toiletries, and non-perishable food items. If you know a student or family that attends YCS schools and they are in need of any services, please contact Cherisa Allen, Ypsilanti Programs Community Liaison - [callen2@ycschools.us](mailto:callen2@ycschools.us) or 734-221-3948. For more information regarding the Resiliency Center, please visit [www.ycschools.us](http://www.ycschools.us).



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Thanks for sharing your 1st Day of School pictures with us!



Dr. Zachery-Ross, Dr. Lopez, and Ms. McCarty presented on "*Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Promote Student Voice, Choice, and Agency*" at the Michigan Association Superintendent Administrators (MASA).

The YCHS  
Podcast  
Lounge is open  
and ready to  
hear our  
students'  
voices!

YCMS is going to Washington, D.C.!!

Here's what's happening in the community

**DERMATOLOGY COMMUNITY DAY**

Saturday, October 7, 2023 • 10 am - 1 pm  
Ypsilanti Health Center  
200 Arnet Street, Ypsilanti, MI

Learn about:  
• Acne  
• Hair Loss  
• Keloids  
• Hidradenitis Suppurativa  
• Skin Cancer

Talk with Michigan Medicine dermatologists, and get a FREE skin check  
Win skincare prizes!  
Food and drinks provided!

Event is free, but registration is requested at: <http://www.DermatologyCommunityDay.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by Michigan Medicine's Department of Dermatology and OHF's Phyllis M. Blackman Innovation Grant

..... CORNER HEALTH .....

**YLC KICK OFF**

Food, Games & Info!

Sept. 27th

6:30-8:00

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

47 N Huron St, Ypsilanti   
@cornerhealthcenter   
RSVP at: +734-657-4652

the corner  
HEALTH CENTER

**the corner  
HEALTH CENTER**

**THEATRE TROUPE**

Every Wednesday  
3:30-5 p.m.

Join us for our Theatre Troupe Kick Off event!  
Play acting games  
Meet new people  
Have fun!

742126 742126

Sign up here!

FOOD, FUN & GAMES!

47 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti

Any questions? reach out to [rannear@cornerhealth.org](mailto:rannear@cornerhealth.org)